



This is fun to watch when you're on a River Cruise!

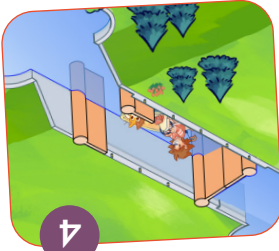
Sailing Away
The boat sails out and continues its journey!



Closing the Doors
Big, heavy gates close behind the boat, sealing it inside.



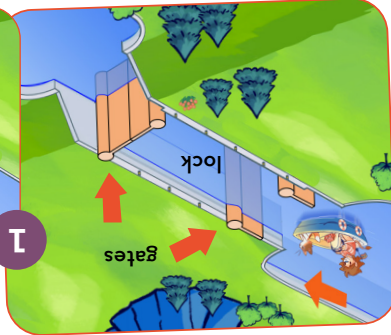
Doors Open!
Once the water inside the lock is the same level as the water ahead, the other gates open.



Changing the Water Level
If the boat needs to go down, lowering the boat gently. If the boat needs to go up, water is pumped into the lock, raising the boat like an elevator.



Entering the Elevator
The boat sails into the lock, which is like a big box.



How Canal Locks Work

fold on this line first

then fold on this line

River Cruising & Canal Locks Fun Facts!

Super Old!
People have been using locks for hundreds of years. Some of the first locks were built in China way back in the year 984!

Animal Helpers!
In the old days, horses or mules on land would pull the levers to open and close the lock gates!

Famous Locks!
The Soo Locks in Michigan are super busy - they lift and lower about 7,000 ships every year!

Giant Locks!
The biggest locks in the world are on the Panama Canal. They're big enough for humongous ships!

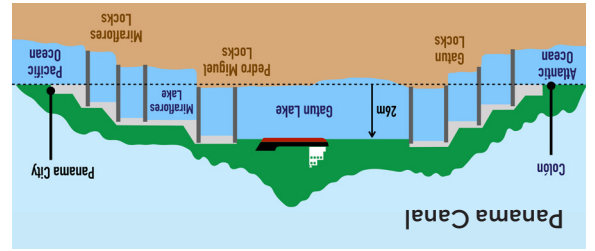


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This is a side view of the very famous Panama Canal which has many locks for boats to go through. You can see how the height of the water is higher in the middle (near the mountain) and lower on the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean sides.



Rivers are like water slides - they flow from the high parts (hills) down to the lower parts (valleys). And, sometimes, rivers have a big drop - that's a waterfall! A canal lock (or lock for short) is a special section of a waterway that has gates at both ends. Locks help boats travel where the water has different levels. They lift boats up or lower them down so the journey can continue.

Canal Locks: Water Elevators for Boats

One of my favorite parts of river cruises in addition to visiting all the fun places is going through Canal Locks.

Going on a River Cruise is like going on a Cruise Ship except instead of the ocean it is on a river. And, because the ship travels on rivers near cities she ships have to be short to fit under bridges.

What is River Cruising?



KeeKee Kid's Corner



Cruising on the Danube River in Regensburg, Germany

River Cruising & Canal Locks



Kid Travel Tips, Activities & Fun Facts

